

agencies. The trail from Friend Park is managed to accommodate both the utility corridor and recreation trail needs.

### **Geographic Area Objectives, Strategies, Standards, and Guidelines**

#### **Objectives:**

1. Within the planning period, acquire right-of-way access across other ownerships into the Bar M Mountain/Windy Peak area and the Flat Top Mountain area.
2. Maintain the Laramie Peak Electronic Site.
3. Optimize recreational and scenic opportunities at the summit of Laramie Peak.
4. Enhance opportunities for horseback use at the Roaring Fork Trailhead and in the Cow Creek areas including ancillary facilities.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Implement the Laramie Peak Bighorn Sheep Habitat Management Plan.
2. Plan and construct trails in the Cow Creek area to connect to existing trails to create an overall trail system.

#### **Standards:**

1. Manage domestic sheep to provide adequate and effective separation from bighorn sheep, avoiding direct contact between the two.
2. Manage the Laramie Peak trail (FDT 602) for motorized and nonmotorized use.

## Box Elder Geographic Area

**Setting** – This 121,153-acre area (38% federal ownership) contains scattered stands of limber pine (4%) and subalpine fir (1%). The western part of the area has limber pine interspersed with ponderosa pine (2%) and Douglas-fir (<1%). Most lodgepole pine stands (23%) in the area are heavily infested with mistletoe. Isolated aspen stands comprise a minor component of the vegetation (<1%). Grass, forbs, and shrubs make up 5% of the vegetation. Within the forested area, 16% is considered late successional. See the preferred alternative for a detailed map of this geographic area.

The western part of the area is remote and primitive. This area is colder and wetter with more drainages. The southern edge of the area is the transition zone between the Laramie Plains and the Forest.

Major perennial drainages in the area are Deer Creek, Box Elder Creek, and LaPrele Creek and the headwaters of the Little Medicine Bow River. Deer Creek is a regionally important recreational fishery for the state. Dominant species are rainbow and brook trout. Fish habitat improvement structures have been installed in Deer Creek and some tributaries. Boreal toads have been found in the area. Beaver are present in many drainages.

This area supports deer, elk, blue grouse, sage grouse, and some turkeys. Bear and mountain lion are also present. This area has the highest density of goshawk nests on the Laramie Range. There is deer, elk, and bighorn sheep winter range in the northeast portion of the area. Preble's meadow jumping mice have been found in the area.

Primary recreation opportunities are big game hunting, camping, and fishing. High quality fishing opportunities are constrained by limited access. Campbell Creek Campground is the only developed campground in the area. Dispersed camping is concentrated along drainages and along National Forest System (NFS) roads with public access. LaPrele Guard Station offers a public cabin rental opportunity. There are limited motorized and nonmotorized trails in the geographic area.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, this area produced commercial quantities of copper. There are probably deposits of feldspar, garnet, quartz, chert, agate, and copper in the area. There are abandoned mines and prospect holes in the area, but those that posed a hazard to people and wildlife have been mitigated. Mineral material development has been limited to minor entries for road gravel.